

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **7 July 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-33. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 12, 13, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being upatentable over Suzuoki et al (USPN 5,774,125, hereinafter "Suzuoki"). Claims 3, 5, 6, 14, 16, 17, 25, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuoki in view of Kaneko (USPN 5,764,237, hereinafter "Kaneko"). Claims 8, 9, 11, 19, 20, 22, 30, 31, and 33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Independent claims 1, 12, and 23 were rejected as being unpatentable over Suzuoki. Claims 9, 20, and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent base claims 1, 12, and 23 to include allowable limitations of dependent claims 9, 20, and 31, respectively. Dependent claims 9, 20, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 23 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-8 and 10-11, which depend upon claim 1, claims 13-19 and 21-22, which depend upon claim 12, and claims 24-30 and 32-33, which depend upon claim 23, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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